

Mercury Legislative Initiatives in the Northeast

2002 RCRA National Meeting

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Background

- NE Governors Conference Mercury Action Plan – Virtual Elimination Goal
- Model Legislation on Mercury Containing Products Key Recommendation of Mercury Action Plan
- NEWMOA drafted model legislation from 1998-2000
- Involved Two Rounds of Stakeholder Input

Background

(continued)

- NE Governors endorsed proceeding with introducing model legislation in 2000
- Model legislation includes a provision to create an Interstate Clearinghouse to assist states in implementing the law

Overview– Mercury Model Bill

- Definitions
- Interstate Clearinghouse
- Notification
- Restrictions on Sales
- Phase-out & Exemptions
- Labeling
- Disposal Ban

Overview

(continued)

- Collection System Plans
- Disclosure
- Elemental Mercury Limits
- Public Education & Outreach
- State Procurement
- Full Model Text Available at
www.newmoa.org

IMERC

➤ Functions:

- Coordinate notification
- Coordinate education and outreach
- Facilitate interstate reviews:

Exemptions

Collection plans

Alternative labeling

Status of Bills

- Mercury Products Bills Introduced in all NEWMOA-member states in 2001
- 2000 NH bill – notification, product bans, clearinghouse
- 2000 ME bill – product labeling, disposal ban
- 2001 ME bill – notification, product bans, clearinghouse
- 2001 RI bill – most provisions, clearinghouse

Anticipated Activities in 2002

- CT – Governor's bill reintroduced
- ME – Bills to: reduce sources of mercury from cars & phase-out mercury products
- MA – Continued debate on proposed bill
- NH – Governor's bill continuing debate
- NJ – Thermometer ban was introduced; may introduce other components of the model
- NY – Unknown
- VT – Governor's bill reintroduced

Recent Legislation Passed by States Outside of the Northeast

- Maryland 2001 – Thermometer ban, Clearinghouse
- Oregon 2001 – Thermometer ban, auto switch phase –out, thermostat ban
- Illinois 2001 – Thermometer restrictions, novelty ban, restricts mercury in schools
- California 2001 – Thermometer ban, novelty ban, K-12 cleanout, voluntary auto switch removal program

State Legislation (cont.)

- Michigan 2000 – phased-out mercury use in school classrooms by 2004
- Nebraska 2001– bill introduced to ban mercury fever thermometers – pending
- Texas 2001– bill introduced to regulate certain mercury products
- Minnesota – parent state for mercury product legislation – labeling, product bans, disposal ban, others

Mercury Reduction Programs: Examples

- Thermometer exchanges
- Hospital Assistance/Partnership Programs
- School Assistance & Clean-out Programs
- Fish Advisories & Public Education
- HHW Collection
- Auto Switches
- EPP- focus

NEWMOA

- Non-profit Interstate Association
- Members: CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT
- Focus: Hazardous waste, solid waste, P2, Waste site cleanup
- Established in 1986

For more information

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